

John Robert Hume

(1781?-1857)

MD LRCP FRCP DCL CB

Reference and contact details: RCSEd GD/1

Location: RS R2

Title: John Robert Hume, MD LRCP FRCP DCL CB

Dates of Creation: 1800-1860

Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Extent: 4 series: 39 items

Name of Creator: John Robert Hume

Language of Material: English.

Level of Description: item

Administrative/Biographical History:

John Robert Hume, MD LRCP FRCP DCL CB), physician, was born in Renfrewshire and studied medicine in Glasgow, 1795, 1798, 1799 and Edinburgh, in 1796-1797. He entered the medical service of the army, serving in the Peninsula. Hume was awarded an MD from St Andrews University, 1816 and became a licentiate of the College of Physicians, 1819. He became the surgeon to the Duke of Wellington and was awarded the DCL from Oxford University, 1834. He became a Fellow of the College of Physicians, 1836, and was awarded the CB in 1850. [Papers include a letter informing him that he is elected FRCSEd 1816. Name absent from membership lists.]

Papers gifted to The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh by Mr Archibald Campbell, of Glendaruel (Argyllshire), great-grandson of John Robert Hume

See also Hall, Ion Simson FRCSEd "John Robert Hume: personal physician to the first Duke of Wellington". J R Coll Surg Edinb. 1980 Jul; 25(4): Pages 219-32.

GD1/1-11

Military papers

Dates of Creation: 1800-1826

Extent: 11 items

GD1/12-21

Correspondence and documents from and concerning the Duke and Duchess of Wellington

Dates of Creation: 1818-1847

Extent: 10 items

GD1/22-35

Certificates, Appointments and Honours of John Robert Hume 1816-1860

Dates of Creation: 1816-1860

Extent: 14 items

GD1/36-39

Family correspondence

Dates of Creation: 1837-1855

Extent: 4 items

GD1/1-11 Military and other papers 1800-1826

GD1/1

1800 May 9

Commission of Robert Hume as assistant surgeon to the Ninety Second Regiment of Foot under command of the Marquis of Huntly. [Found in association with 2 and 3]

GD1/2

1803 July 9

Appointment of Robert Hume as surgeon to the Fourteenth Battalion of Reserve under the command of Colonel Sir William Erskine Bart. [Found in association with 1 and 3]

GD1/3

1814 May 26

Appointment of Robert Hume to the position of Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, signed by the Prince Regent. [Found in association with 1 and 2]

GD1/4

1810

Rough notes made by Dr Hume on the diseases of the British Army during the Peninsular War, especially fever in the intermittent and simple form and complaints of the bowels, and typed copies thereof.

GD1/5

1815 June [19]

Detailed notes by Dr Hume and copies thereof describing his progress through the village of Waterloo on the evening of Wellington's victory attending the wounded, and extolling the remarkable fortitude of the cavalry commander, the Earl of Uxbridge, whose leg Hume was obliged to amputate after a severe knee injury sustained during the battle.

GD1/6

1815 June 18

Dr Hume's description of his amputation of Colonel Sir Alexander Gordon's leg at the upper thigh, of Wellington's house in Waterloo where Lord Fitzroy Somerset's arm was amputated before he departed for Brussels with the Prince of Orange and of Gordon's death, and typed copies thereof.

GD1/7

1819 May 21

Memorial by Dr Hume to the Lords of the Treasury requesting that he be retired on full pay in view of the testimony of the Duke of Wellington and of his seventeen years of foreign service in the field including the following campaigns: Holland (1799), the Mediterranean (1800), Egypt under Sir R Abercromby (1801), embarked with troops destined for Germany (1805), Copenhagen (1807), Portugal and Spain (1808), on the island of Walchesen throughout the period of its occupation in 1809, the return to the Peninsula which he had quit with the army after the battle of Corunna (or La Coruna) and throughout the rest of the war with the troops under the Duke of Wellington in Belgium and France until the return of the army in December 1819.

GD1/8

1819 June 22

Copy of the Treasury minutes for the above [GD1/7] recording the Duke of Wellington's recommendation that Dr Hume be promoted to the rank of Inspector of Hospitals and employed as such at York Hospital or at some such other station, and the board's reluctance to employ

him at any station where an officer of the same rank would not otherwise be employed or to discontinue any other officer for the purpose of employing Hume. As a mark of special respect to Wellington's recommendation it is resolved that Dr Hume be allowed to retire upon an allowance of 30/- [thirty shillings] per diem [per day] and be employed as an Inspector of Hospitals as soon as the opportunity arises.

GD1/9

1821 April 27

Copy note from W. Merry of the War Office acquainting General Sir Herbert Taylor, for the information of HRH The Commander in Chief, with the fact that Dr J R Hume has been placed upon a military allowance of £2.00 per diem gross or £1. 17/11 per diem net as a retired Inspector of Hospitals from April 25, 1821.

GD1/10

1826 August 14

Letter in French from the Comte de Lieven to Dr Hume, and English translation thereof, accompanying a ring from the Czar in recognition of his good services to the sick and wounded of the Russian corps of the Army of Occupation in France.

GD1/11

1826 August 16

Draft letter in French and English translation thereof from Dr Hume to the Comte de Lieven expressing gratitude for the ring presented to him by H.I.M. in witness of the Czar's satisfaction of the care rendered to his soldiers by Dr Hume.

GD1/12-21

Correspondence and documents from and concerning the Duke and Duchess of Wellington 1818-1847

Extent: 11 items

GD1/12

1818 December 3

Copy letters from the Duke of Wellington to General Sir Henry Torrens K.C.B. and Sir James McGrigor [Hon FRCSEd 1824] praising the work of Dr Hume, his Deputy Inspector of Hospitals – “there is no Medical Officer to whom the army is indebted to a greater degree” – and recommending his appointment to the charge of York Hospital.

GD1/13

C 1823 December

Transcript of a letter to Dr Hume from the Duchess of Wellington from Stratfield Saye wishing him a happy birthday and promising to send some early works of Lord Byron about which she expresses her misgivings: “I believe there is no positive wickedness in them. Yet there is a spirit of discontent...monstrous characters such as Corsair, made adorable, and a lovely woman adoring a savage and many other undesirable things; but even if they were quite unexceptional I yet would banish them in consequence of the works that succeed them ...these in themselves harmless become dangerous like Diamond steps to lead you to Hell; we had better avoid the staircase entirely”. The Duchess gives news of her family, of Douro who is reading for a first class at Cambridge and of an invitation from Lord and Lady Salisbury [2 sheets]

GD1/14

1824 August 28

Photostat letter and copy thereof to Dr Hume from H. M. King George commanding him to write a daily statement of the Duke of Wellington's health which is causing him great uneasiness, until the Duke be quite recovered [3 sheets]

GD1/15

C 1824 August 29-30

Photostat copy of Dr Hume's report to King George respecting the Duke of Wellington's progress after an attack of simple inflammatory fever, his detailed explanation of the Duke's condition and his advocacy of a weak infusion of bark as a mild general tonic. [2 sheets]

GD1/16

C 1828 March 12

Photostat copy of Dr Hume's eye-witness account of the Duke of Wellington's duel with Lord Winchelsea in the early morning in Battersea Fields, to which he had been summoned by a friend, Sir Henry Hardinge. [25 sheets stapled together]

GD1/17

1829 May 27

Photostat letter to Dr Hume from Lord Dunglass thanking him for his narrative of the duel between the Duke of Wellington and Lord Winchelsea and roundly condemning "that abject Lord Falmouth". [2 sheets]

GD1/18

C 1830 November

Photostat of a letter to Dr Hume from the Duchess of Wellington acknowledging a note received from him and expressing extreme gratitude for his doctor's kind attention. "You saved his life".

GD1/19

C 1830 November 3

Photostat of effusive letter to Dr Hume from the Duchess of Wellington calling "A thousand and a thousand blessings on you my dear Hume, good natured and considerate friend". She passes on Longford's words that many of those who had withdrawn from him since the passing of the Catholic question will now rally round him and the government will be "right well supported".

GD1/20

1841 August 1

Photostat and typed copy of a letter to Dr Hume from the Duke of Wellington from Walmer Castle referring to Hume's annual journey to Scotland and stating that he is well, has to be in London for the meeting of Parliament and will probably still be there when Hume returns in September.

GD1/21

C 1847 September 24

Photostat and typed copy of the Duke of Wellington's letter of sympathy to Dr Hume on the occasion of his only daughter's death at Glendaruel.

GD1/22-35 Certificates, Appointments and Honours of John Robert Hume 1816-1860

GD1/22

1816 July 10

Certificate of R J Hume's attendance of his course of lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, 1796-1796 [sic], given by Robert Freer, Professor of Medicine at Glasgow University

GD1/23

1816 November 6

Letter to Dr Hume from W Spens informing him that he has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and requesting Hume's assistance in procuring a commission for the writer's son, aged fifteen and completing his education at a military school in Hanover.

GD1/24

1819 December 22

Licentiate of the London College of Physicians conferred upon John Hume M.D. [Latin]

GD1/25

1836 July 9

Diploma conferring upon John Hume the Fellowship of the London College of Physicians [Latin]

GD1/26

1835 November 16

Letter to the Duke of Wellington, from William Stanley Clarke, Chairman of the East India Company, acknowledging the Duke's recommendation of Dr Hume as Examining Physician to the East India Company and offering himself to propose to that Court that they appoint Hume to that office.

GD1/27

1835 November 25

Letter to the Duke of Wellington from William Stanley Clarke informing him of Dr Hume's appointment as Company Examining Physician.

GD1/28

1835 November 25

Letter from William Stanley Clarke to Dr Hume giving notice of his appointment by the Court of Directors to succeed Dr Chambers as Examining Physician to the East India Company.

GD1/29

1846 July 2

Extract from the minutes of the Board of the Royal Naval and Military East India Company and General Life Assurance Society accepting the resignation of Dr Hume as medical officer to the Society on his appointment as Commissioner in Lunacy.

GD1/30

1854 April 12

Letter to Dr Hume from Alliance Insurance Company, accepting his resignation and expressing their gratitude and entire satisfaction with his thirty years of service.

GD1/31

1850 August 17

Royal Warrant creating Dr Hume Companion of the Bath, Military Division, 3rd Class.

GD1/32

1860 June

Copy death certificate of J R Hume of cardiac dropsy on March 1st 1857 at 9 Curzon Street in the district of Mayfair.

GD1/33

[n.d.]

Typed extract from the Dictionary of National Biography of the entry for John Roert Hume, M. D. (1781? – 18570

GD1/34

[n.d.]

Typed notes on John Robert Hume M.D. B.C. by his great great grandson [Archibald H. Campbell] [3 sheets]

GD1/35**[n.d.]**

Typed inventory of documents, diplomas, commissions, etc of John Robert Hume

GD1/36-39 Family correspondence 1837-1855

Extent: 4 items

GD1/36**1837 January 27**

Letter and typed copy thereof from Dr Hume to his daughter Elizabeth Campbell of Glendaruel, including medical prescriptions and advice for a Calomel and James' powder, a dose of Senna and salts, a diaphoretic mixture with Barley water gruel lemonade, etc and cough mixture or pills. He adds a recipe for porridge which he feeds his dog; alludes to the rise in the price of wheat and informs his daughter of plans to go to Oatlands with Lord Fitzroy [Somerset] and of the last shoot of the year at Lord Montagu.

GD1/37**1837 February 4**

Letter and typed copy thereof from Dr Hume to his daughter Elizabeth Campbell respecting Archy Campbell's application for extension of leave from the Horse Guards, and advising that Miss Glenfuschan should apply thirty leeches instead of six, get cupped and apply a fomentation and then a blister to her chest. Dr Hume questions the wisdom of blistering with Croton oil which is a most violent purgative, prescribes instead mustard, cantharides or Tartar emetic and expresses concern about the mange which has affected the dogs. [2 sheets]

GD1/38**1854 November 27**

Letter and typed copy thereof from Dr Hume to his granddaughter Madeleine Campbell thanking her for several letters, complaining of his gout, relating a visit from her brother Archy "Og" and referring to the glorious but bloody battles of the Crimea. He anticipates the publication of a plan of the siege of Sebastopol and Battle of Inkerman, remarks upon the admiration for Lord Raglan felt by everyone "both here and in France" and notes that Lord George Paget arrived the previous night at Marseilles with dispatches and will arrive in London shortly.

GD1/39**1855 May 5**

Letter and typed copy thereof from Dr Hume to his granddaughter Madeleine Campbell complaining of his cold, expressing anxiety about Archy's health and referring to his other grandchildren.